

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A marking device comprising:

a barrel having a body defined between a first end and a second end wherein the first end has a tip capable of producing a mark;

a sheath that covers the body of the barrel between the first end and the second end wherein the sheath has a first layer and a second layer wherein the first layer has an adhesive to attach to the second layer; and

an end cap removably attached on the second end of the barrel wherein the end cap has a connecting lead extending from the end cap.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 wherein the sheath is cylindrically shaped with an aperture therethrough.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 wherein the sheath wraps around the barrel of the marking device.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 further comprising:

a clamp for clamping the sheath to the marking device.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 further comprising:

an antibacterial substance associated with the sheath.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 wherein the connecting lead is a chain.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 wherein the end cap is interchangeable between a plurality of barrels.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The marking device of Claim 1 further

comprising:

means for attaching the sheath to the barrel.

Claim 9 (previously amended): A marking device accessory kit, the accessory kit comprising:

a marking device having a barrel defined between a first end and a second end wherein the first end has a tip capable of producing a mark;

a flat article placed around the barrel to partially cover the barrel of the marking device;

a band secured around the flat article to hold the flat article on the barrel; and

a cap having a lead extending from the cap wherein the cap is removably attached to the barrel at the second end.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (original): The accessory kit of Claim 9 further comprising:

an antimicrobial substance associated with the article.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The accessory kit of Claim 9 wherein the article wraps a plurality of times around the barrel creating a plurality of layers around the marking device.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The accessory kit of Claim 9 wherein the article includes an adhesive for fixing the article to the barrel of the marking device.

Claim 14 (previously amended): The accessory kit of Claim 9 further comprising:

a tool for attaching the band to the article.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A marking device accessory kit, the accessory kit comprising:

a marking device having a barrel having an exterior surface wherein the barrel is defined between a first end and a second end wherein the first end has a tip capable of producing a mark and further wherein the marking device has a means for producing ~~a~~ the mark within the barrel;

a sheath defined between a first end and a second end wherein the sheath ~~fits~~ wraps around the exterior surface of the barrel of the marking device wherein the sheath overlaps onto itself when wrapped around the exterior surface of the marking device ~~and forms a gap between the first end and the second end of the sheath leaving a portion of the body of the marking device not covered by the sheath;~~

an end cap removably attached ~~on~~ to the second end of the barrel ~~marking device~~ wherein the end cap is interchangeable between a plurality of marking devices; and

a connecting lead having a first end and a second end wherein the first end of the connecting lead extends from the end cap and is removably connected to the end cap.

Claim 16 (previously amended): The accessory kit of Claim 15 wherein the connecting lead is a chain.

Claim 17 (currently amended) A method of using a marking device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a barrel having an exterior surface and further having a body defined between a first end and a second end wherein the first end has a tip capable of producing a mark wherein a means for producing ~~a~~ the mark is within the barrel;

providing a sheath that overlaps onto itself when wrapped around the exterior surface of the barrel and partially covers the

exterior surface of the barrel between the first end and the second end wherein the sheath is coated with an antimicrobial substance;

providing an end cap for fitting over the second end of the barrel wherein the end cap has a connecting lead that extends from the end cap;

fitting the sheath over the barrel between the first end and the second end; and

fitting the end cap over the second end of the barrel.

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (original): The method of Claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

providing clamps for clamping the sheath to the barrel of the marking device;

wrapping the sheath over the barrel of the marking device; and

clamping the sheath to the barrel of the marking device.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 17 further comprising the steps of:

providing an adhesive on the sheath; and

wrapping the sheath around the barrel of the marking device forming layers wherein the layers stick together and further to the marking device via the adhesive.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A method of using a marking device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a barrel having a body defined between a first end and a second end wherein the first end has a tip capable of producing a mark;

providing a sheath that partially covers the barrel between the first end and the second end wherein the sheath is coated with

an antimicrobial substance;

providing an end cap for fitting over the second end of the barrel wherein the end cap has a connecting lead that extends from the end cap;

fitting the sheath over the barrel between the first end and the second end;

fitting the end cap over the second end of the barrel;

providing clamps for clamping the sheath to the barrel of the marking device;

wrapping the sheath over the barrel of the marking device; and
clamping the sheath to the barrel of the marking device.